

March 11, 2018

God's Purpose in Marriage (9)

- We've been given a glimpse of how God's unique love functions among the three Divine Persons of God (**1 John 4:8**).
- If *God is love*, there must be a plurality of Persons involved. Each Person of the Godhead relates to the Others in a Self-giving, selfless love, so that the three Persons commune and communicate as One in perfect unity and joy.
- This is the purpose that is set forth in **Eph. 5:22-33** through the way the husband loves his wife and the way she responds to his love.
- The wife's respectful submission to her husband's leadership represents the church's respectful submission to Christ's leadership.

Eph. 5:22 ...Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord... 33 let the wife see that she respects her husband

- The husband's loving leadership of his wife represents Christ's loving leadership of His church.

Eph 5:25 ...Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church...33 let each one of you love his wife...

The Roles of Husband & Wife in Genesis 1-2

- God intends for His image (**Gen. 1:26**) to fill the earth (**v. 28**).

***Hab 2:14** For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea*

- In **Gen. 1:28** and **2:15**, God gave Adam three mandates that together would enable him to fulfill his role as God's image bearer.

1. Be Fruitful and Multiply and Fill the Earth (Gen. 1:28a)

2. Subdue and Have Dominion Over Every Living Thing (Gen. 1:28b)

3. Work and Keep the Garden (Gen. 2:15)

- In **Gen. 2:15**, God confers on Adam the function of priest over his family by giving him the responsibility to work and keep the Garden.

***Num. 3:7-8** 7 They shall keep [shamar] guard over [Aaron] and over the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, as they minister [abad] at the tabernacle. 8 They shall guard all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, and keep [shamar] guard over the people of Israel as they minister [abad] at the tabernacle.*

- To the Levites was given the responsibility of overseeing the protection and proper worship within the Tabernacle.
- In the same way, Adam was responsible for protecting his marriage from pollution and for cultivating an atmosphere of the worship of God in his marriage.

Gen 2:16-17 *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

John 14:15 *If you love me, you will obey what I command*

- The essential revelation in these mandates [roles] was the way the Persons of God relate to one Another in love through Their respective roles.
 - Mandate # 1, the role of the Spirit (Eph.1:13-14)
 - Mandate # 2, the role of Father (Eph.1:3-6)
 - Mandate # 3, the role of the Son (Eph.1:7-12)

John 17:4 *I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do...*